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# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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### MEDIA ADVISORY

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## Nov 19 MEDIA ADVISORY

### Farmington Homeowners and Fire Managers Plan For Wildfire

**When:** 7:00 p.m.

**Where:** Farmington City Hall (130 North Main in Farmington)

**Who:** Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands; Farmington Fire Department; Residents living in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

Residents in Farmington are preparing for the inevitable: another wildfire in the mountains above their homes. State and City fire managers have invited 150 homeowners from the Farmington Benches to a meeting where they plan to discuss and begin forming a strategic plan aimed at reducing risks from wildfires. Through a series of meetings, fire managers hope that the eventual outcome will be a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). Emergency access routes, defensible space around homes and other measures to keep a fire from moving toward urban areas will be topics of discussion.

Farmington homes in WUI areas have narrowly escaped disaster twice in the past five years. With the proper combination of wind direction and fire behavior, homeowners in these areas could be facing the same heartbreak as many residents in California in the aftermath of recent wildfires. A 440 acre fire last year burned within a few hundred feet of homes along Haight Bench and a 2,000 acre fire in 2003 caused the evacuation of several homes along the eastern edge of the city.

“The bench areas are of particular concern to us,” Says State WUI Coordinator Tyre Holfeltz, “many of the homes are close to flammable oak brush and grasses; it could be just like what we’re seeing in California.”

Holfeltz says that once homeowners see how a few simple actions can make the difference in making a home more defensible, they become very proactive. Many residents have been concerned for several years, but have not known where to start.

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